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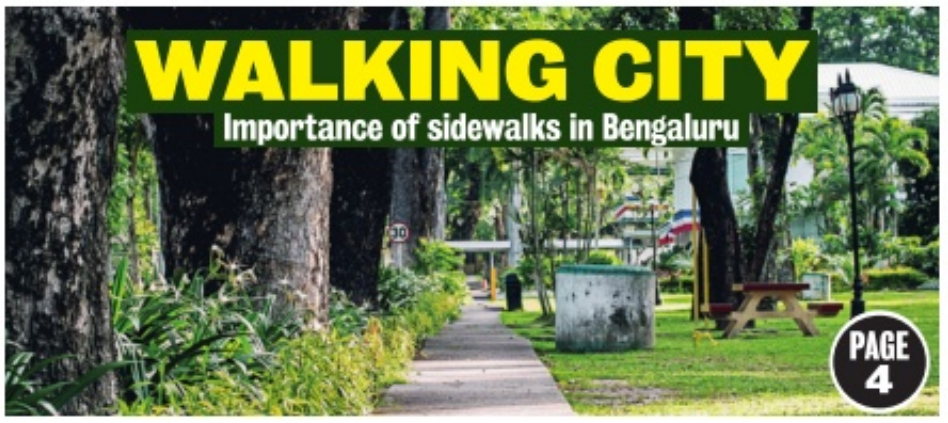
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 70% Light Rain Showers Sensex 60,130 | Nifty 17,769 | Gold 60,022 | Silver 73,920 | Dollar 82.01 | Euro 90.01 | GBP 101.68



Coordination between urban civic bodies in total disarray: a reason behind Bengaluru's infra sinking in a quagmire of ineptitude

LOGGER HEADS

Digging of footpaths without any concern towards well-grown trees draws ire

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is not doing anything to ensure the much needed coordination among its various departments.

It is quite saddening to see that while one department is working for growing and nurturing trees, another, while taking up developmental works, is actively working to damage trees. Digging of footpaths without any care towards well-grown trees has invited criticism from environmentalists.

The BBMP is installing new street light poles on Lalbagh Road, KR Road, Shankar Mutt Road and other roads in and around Basavanagudi. No one is against installing street light poles to replace old and rusted ones; that said, no sane person, especially those concerned about the preservation and conservation of the environment, would agree with workers digging near the trees for any purpose.

One can see many pits dug on the footpaths without leaving the required space near well-grown trees on many roads in Bengaluru South. Roots of many trees were damaged when workers dug up pits for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"There seems to be no application of mind by the people involved in digging pits... adjacent to trees; they remove the roots, and pour cement to install a pole

– Raghavendra B Pachhapur, ActionAid Association

Water ATMs set up in rural villages

Facility set up by firm after detecting fluoride and nitrate content in groundwater

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Bengaluru-based company is installing water ATMs in villages of Karnataka affected by water contamination. The company has already established several units in Doddaballapur and Malur. Taking into account the fluoride and nitrate content in the groundwater table beneath the villages, the company is on a mission to provide clean drinking water in remote areas.

City based Boson Whitewater is establishing water ATMs in villages across Karnataka. The company has established four units in Doddaballapur and six units in Malur already. The company plans to establish 25 units in different parts of Karnataka like Tumakuru.

Just like the regular ATM, users have to swipe a card to get water. Villagers can get 20 litres of clean drinking water at a nominal charge of Rs 5. The ATM card issued by the company is already loaded with Rs 50 which can be utilised to avail of their services.

The projects have been funded by ExxonMobil and Broadridge under a CSR initiative.

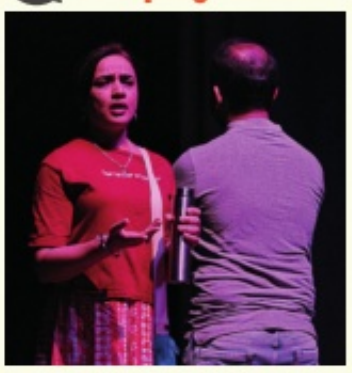
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Shop till you drop

Catch a special exhibition which brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India featuring vast collections of cotton, silk handlooms & handicrafts, Orissa tie and dye, dress material and Orissa sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees, and many more.
Where: Banashankari Mahila Samaja, Banashankari 3rd Stage
When: Till April 30

02 It's play time



Antharanga, the leading amateur theatre troupe of Karnataka has been actively involved in the production and performance of a wide variety of plays for the past 42 years. It has received rave reviews from a large section of audience. Antharanga now is all set to perform its latest play 'Wedding Ring'. The play revolves on love, marriage and relationship with the wedding ring as an interesting pivot. This play talks about the conflicts of relationships and the fragility of the same. It also talks about the materialistic life that hampers human relationship.
Where: KH Kala Soudha, Hanumanth Nagar
When: April 29, 7 pm; Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 Classical melodies

Catch the Morning Raag with Aniruddh Aithal. The concert will be a traditional Khayal performance consisting of morning melodies. In the Hindustani Classical music system, every Raag has a designated time at which they are supposed to be sung for maximum impact and effect. However, in a fast-paced world centred around efficiency and convenience, morning concerts have become extremely rare, hence a lot of Raagas are not being sung. Aniruddha Aithal (vocals) will be accompanied by Shrivatsa Koulgi on the Tabla and Vighnesh Bhagwat on the Harmonium.

When: May 7, 7:30 am; Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre; Tickets: bookmyshow.com

The heat factor

As temperatures soar, cases of heat stroke, dehydration continue to surge

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Drinking plenty of water is one of the best ways to remain hydrated in this hot summer

With the temperatures crossing 35 degree Celsius in Bengaluru, the city has been witnessing a surge in cases of heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, and heat stroke, owing to the rising temperatures. A particular concern has been the alarming increase in the number of children and adults being diagnosed with heat stroke on a weekly basis. Heat stroke, if left untreated, can even prove to be fatal.

Heat stroke is the most serious of all the heat wave-related diseases. When the body's thermostat fails, or when it is unable to control its temperature, the body rapidly heats up; the sweating process fails, and as a result, the body is unable to cool down.

This occurs when our body is exposed to increased temperatures. Within 10 to 15 minutes, the body temperature might reach 106°F or more. If the person does not receive emergency treatment, they may suffer permanent disability or death.

Dr Pankaj Singhai, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road disclosed of seeing at least two - three cases per week over the past six weeks. Some are mild forms of heat wave-related diseases like heat exhaustion while some are severe forms of heat stroke.

Dr Singhai disclosed a case, where a 40-year-old man complained of altered sensorium and dizziness after playing sports in the outside environment, and excess sweating. "On evaluation, the patient was found to have hyponatremia, hypokalemia, and a high body temperature of 105'F, leading to acute kidney injury. He was treated with IV fluids, electrolyte correction, and other supportive measures."

In another case, a 72-year-old came from Coorg to Bengaluru with a history of exposure to excessive heat as well as diarrhoea for 3 days, developed confusion, dizziness, and altered sensorium. The patient had a high body temperature of 104'F. He was given IV fluids, IV antipyretics, IV antibiotics, and other supportive measures.

About the warning signs that may precede a summer stroke, Dr Anitha Varghese Consultant Internal Medicine, Special-

Warning signs include increased body temperature, no perspiration, redness of skin, nausea, extreme fatigue, headaches

ist Hospital said that increased body temperature, no perspiration, redness of skin with burning sensation, headache, nausea and extreme weakness include some of the warning symptoms of heatstroke.

This summer has been among the hottest ones that the city has witnessed and they were seeing a rise in patients with conditions of heatstroke.

Dr Jagadish Hiremath, Chairman at AASRA Hospitals added that drinking plenty of water and other fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty, can help.

"Avoid drinks that contain caffeine or alcohol as they can dehydrate you. Try to stay in air-conditioned spaces as much as possible. If you don't have access to air conditioning, take cool showers or baths, use fans, and wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.

If you are working or exercising outdoors, take frequent breaks in a shaded area to rest and cool off. Try to avoid being outdoors during the hottest hours of the day, typically between 10 am and 4 pm. Wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses to protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays," he said.

Nine new polytechnic colleges soon?

The move will help countless students looking for diploma courses after their SSLC exams

The Higher Education Department has proposed establishing nine new government polytechnic colleges, providing more options for those planning to pursue diploma courses after their SSLC.

The department has written to the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) requesting permission to start these colleges from the academic year 2023-24. If granted, students taking admission in the diploma courses in the state will see an additional 2,000 seats. The colleges will offer courses in Computer Science Engineering, Cloud Computing, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical and Electronics Engineering, with each college providing four courses and 60 seats per course. These courses will be available at a nominal fee for poor students.

"The classes are likely to start from this academic year itself. We have already sent a letter to AICTE seeking permission to start and we are hoping to receive the permission at the earliest," said P Pradeep Commissioner, Collegiate and Technical Education Departments.

In the letter to AICTE, the Higher Education Department has stated that all arrangements have been made to start the new colleges from the academic year 2023-24, including sufficient rooms, laboratories, staff, and instructors. The AICTE officials will verify the request before granting the additional colleges. Presently, the state has 102 government polytechnic colleges with 22,928 seats available every year. If permission is granted to start the nine new colleges, an additional 2,160 seats will be provided, improving access to higher education for poor students in the state, according to officials.

New changes

The State Government has recently assigned the Karnataka State Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University with the responsibility of conducting junior, senior and pre-matriculation examinations related to music and dance. Previously, these examinations were conducted by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) in 65 centres of the state, with approximately

20,000 students participating each year. However, the certificate issued by the board had no validity. With the government's order, the university is now authorised to conduct these examinations and issue certificates accredited by the University, thereby consolidating economic resources of the cash-strapped music university, which was on the verge of closure due to low enrolment and lack of funding.

— BMB

How safe are bike taxis for women?

Citizens call for stricter action after woman is sexually harassed on bike taxi

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Many women have been victims of sexual harassment while using a bike taxi

An incident of a 30-year-old woman jumping from a moving bike taxi to save herself from the bike rider who sexually harassed her and tried to take her to a different destination has been brought to light, putting into focus the question of safety for women who choose to travel by bike taxis.

This is not an isolated instance but a regular occurrence. In November last year, a 22-year-old woman from Kerala was allegedly gang-raped by a bike taxi driver and his associate.

"A bike app rider once tried to make me hold his waist. I was uncomfortable and told him to stop the vehicle but he did not listen to me and went on with the ride," Vasudha (name changed), who uses bike taxis often, told BM.

This is not the only concern: insufficient background checks are another cause for concern. For someone to be employed as a rider with the bike app concerned, they only have to upload details of their driver license, vehicle RC and Aadhaar/Pan card. There are no background checks of any sort.

Shaheen Shasa, a member of the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), said that people opt to travel by bike taxis as they are economical as well as faster and called for strict action against service providers at the slightest violation of safety and security of women using their service.

"Public transport is the safest commute option. However, we need public transport, especially the bus, to be more widely available across times and localities. It needs to be more affordable for it to truly serve as a safe and reliable option for all women. This can significantly reduce the need for women to rely on other transport modes which sometimes turn out to be unsafe," she said.

> **Sensitivity training needs to be provided with cops not accepting complaints**
>
> --Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti and Citizens for Bengaluru

The 30-year-old victim's friend alleged that when she found out that her friend was in trouble and rushed the matter to the police, the officers declined to trace the victim's location immediately.

"Safe mobility for women and vulnerable sections needs to be viewed comprehensively. Not only the mode of transport like the bus, metro or taxi needs to be well-lit and have emergency panic buttons, police response for such issues needs to be streamlined. Sensitivity training needs to be provided as we see repeated cases of police not accepting complaints and women being treated poorly even after being harassed," said Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti and Citizens for Bengaluru.

"Mostly importantly, last mile safe connection is often the weakest link. Safe and well-lit roads with eyes on the street, like roadside shops and vendors, are natural protection for traveling women," she explained.

Currently, two-app based aggregators are operating petrol-run bike taxis in the city without a valid license.

The Transport Department has not been able to take steps to curb them as the Karnataka High Court in August 2021 directed transport authorities not to take coercive action against bike taxis, after Roppen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd, the company which aggregates bike taxis through popular bike taxi app Rapido filed a petition.

In Karnataka, the government has allowed the operation of e-bike taxis only, under the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme, 2021. It was introduced in order to help provide first and last-mile connectivity to citizens using public transport and to those who wish to travel shorter distances.

While Rapido, Bounce and MetroRide have applied for the permits, the Transport Department has not issued one to either of them.

IN BRIEF

Bakery damaged over Rs 2

A man allegedly vandalised a bakery because the owner was asking for Rs 2 extra than the MRP of a water bottle.

A woman who runs a bakery in Lingarajpuram, was selling water bottles at Rs 12 and the person argued that the MRP of the water bottle was Rs 10. Later, enraged by the fact that the woman was not selling the bottle at Rs 10, the customer broke glass bottles of various ingredients arranged in front of the bakery and then attacked the woman. The customer has been identified as Kumar and the woman has been identified as Bharti.

A case has been registered in Banaswadi police station regarding the incident. Bansawadi police have registered a complaint from both sides and are investigating the matter. **BMB**

Family drowns

In a tragic incident, a family of five drowned in a water canal while swimming in Mandya district of Karnataka on Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Mehatab (10), Anisha Begum (34), Tasmia (22), Ashrak (28) and Afeeqa (22). All of them had come to their grandmother's place from Bengaluru for holidays after Ramzan.

The personnel from the Fire Force and Emergency Services rushed to the spot and fished out three bodies from the canal. The search is on for the remaining two bodies, police said.

The incident took place in the limits of Basaralu police station. The deceased had gone to swim in the Visvesvaraya canal (VC) near Doddakottagere village. The deceased lived in Neelasandra locality of Bengaluru.

Police explained that the deceased had come to the same place on Monday and swam. But, tragedy struck. The police are taking inputs and have taken up the investigation. **IANS**

'Fewer drugs cases because police aren't vigilant'

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Drugs worth Rs 98 crore were burnt by cops last month

While there has been a decrease in cases of Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) in the city, people say the data shows that police are not doing their work properly.

Around 344 cases were reported during February 2023 under NDPS as against 362 cases in January 2023 and 521 cases in the corresponding month of previous year in February 2022, in Karnataka.

There has been a decrease in the reported cases under NDPS cases during February when compared to the reported cases of previous month and to the corresponding month of previous year, says the Karnataka state police data.

Bengaluru also recorded 185 cases in February and 229 in January 2023.

Residents say that the only way to stop drugs is through stopping supply of the drugs and social intervention on users.

Only thing police will do is keep catching small holders or users while suppliers search for markets. Every time someone is caught for supplying drugs, they are small peddlers who would supply drugs to techies or college students but a crime can't be stopped unless you catch the mastermind who is involved, said Saurabh A, a resident of the city.

Another resident says, "I think the police can do more to curb drug abuse and peddling, especially in some pockets of the city. There is a perception that international students from African countries are actively engaged in such activities. This might be true, but then the thing is that there are many natives who are selling drugs -- especially to students."

Rohith, a student of Christ University says that it is essential to note that initiatives alone might not be sufficient to tackle drug consumption among students.

"From a student's point of view, drug consumption is not something that is really difficult in today's scenario, and the biggest reason behind this is the easy availability of drugs around institutions. In a city like Bengaluru where a hugely diversified bunch of students come for their studies, it's more essential to take higher initiatives to solve the issue. A comprehensive approach requires collaboration between authorities, educational institutions, parents, and communities. Additionally, it's crucial to ensure that initiatives are evidence based and culturally appropriate to be effective," he said.

> **A crime can't be stopped unless you catch the mastermind who is involved**
>
> –Saurabh, a Bengalurean

Downsizing pavements and upsizing dangers

Krumbigal Road's footpath, already narrow, is now also home to pits

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Residents report that many pits (as seen in the photograph) have been created on the Krumbigal Road pavement and are now being covered with concrete and steel rods to create a pillar-like structure

While pedestrians never had it easy on Krumbigal Road, the narrow footpath which is now dug up at multiple spots along the one-kilometre stretch has been making things worse.

As walkers hop, skip, and jump these deep pits to reach the nearest bus stand from Lal Bagh main gate, they have no other option but to walk on the busy road in the face of danger from speeding vehicles.

Walkers say the situation has worsened over the last 20 days as they have to make their way through mud piles left unattended after digging these pits. "The footpath on the stretch is much narrower compared to the standard width elsewhere in the city. It allows only one person to use it at a time.

Since it is too tapered, even while walking on the pedestrian track you are always fearful of speeding vehicles coming from behind. While we were managing it somehow so far, many pits have been dug up and mud has been left. We have to maneuver our way," said a regular commuter on the stretch.

Locals say many pits have been created and now are being covered with concrete and steel rods to create a pillar-like structure. "I counted 37 pits on the one-km stretch, from Lalbagh main gate to the west gate. After 400-500 m from the main gate,

"The footpath is much narrower compared to the standard width elsewhere in the city
– Regular commuter

the pedestrian walk becomes even more narrow. If you have to go to Jayanagar for instance, you have to use this walkway to reach the nearest bus stand. There is no other way.

Due to obstructions, people have started walking on the road with high vehicular traffic," said another commuter. City-based pedestrian rights activists say that the pavements are used not just by people who can commute unaided, but also

by differently-abled citizens who use mobility aids like walking sticks, crutches, or wheelchairs. They also include children, elderly persons, and persons with various disabilities. Thus, downsizing pavements can endanger the lives of pedestrians.

A safe footpath should be a continuous even surface without obstructions. It is always raised from road level with guardrails and without conflict with vehicles.

"In the name of the public good, government agencies should not be endangering the lives of pedestrians. While cities across the world are promoting walking and cycling, these negative developments on the footpaths are setbacks in the case of Bengaluru.

Downsizing footpaths can prove to be fatal, especially in this case as hundreds of families visit Lalbagh Botanical Garden over the weekends and end up using public transport to commute," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a city-based activist.

What about water rights?

| Rachana Ramesh
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Residents on Mosque Road in Frazer Town are angry about not receiving consistent water supply from the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). They say that the discontinuous water supply has led them to borrow water from neighbours who have a borewell installed and to rely on water booths for drinking water.

Ayub Ansari, a resident in the neighbourhood, alleged that the designated worker from the BWSSB refuses to open the valves of the Cauvery waterline, leading to a severe shortage. "At least 10 of the residences on Mosque Road, which have been our homes for 70 years, have been affected by this problem. While new commercial establishments have developed around us, the issue has remained the same for two or three years," Ansari said. He explained that the valve is opened only once every 10 days or so, after multiple requests made by residents. "If a resident runs out of water, they have to borrow it from those who have borewell facilities. "For drinking water, we now need to stand in long queues at the booths," he added. He claimed that despite raising multiple complaints with the responsible authorities, no action has been taken to resolve the issue. "I have been given the number of the assistant executive engineer to follow up on the issue, but he is never responsive," he said.

Ansari's son alleged that the worker pretends to open the valves when the residents are angered and has made indirect demands for money to supply water. Shaisat, another resident affected by the issue, said that it was much harder to maintain the household during the month of Ramzan due to the shortage, and the matter has worsened in the past six months. "We are responsible citizens who pay our water bills, yet we are made to face such an issue.

Before, we would receive water on alternate days, but now we have to rely on bringing water cans from outside for our daily needs," she said. Shaisat alleged that officials are not paying enough attention to the matter since the area is fairly commercial. "If there is a shortage, establishments will have to fulfill their water needs by hiring water tankers. The officials want to enable the water tanker business," she alleged.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

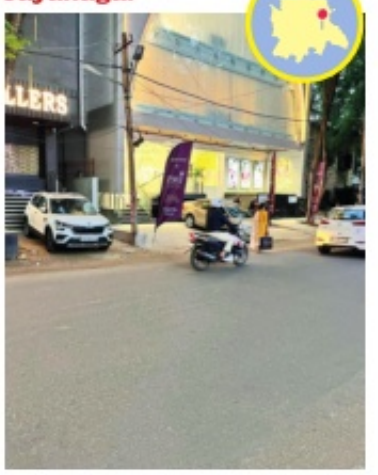
Daily disturbance

Halasuru

Halasuru folks want authorities to change the school students' route, especially to Jogupalya, as they face disturbances everyday.

Pedestrian peril

Jayanagar



Pedestrians on 33rd cross, Jayanagar 4th Block, are facing trouble walking due to parked cars and tables for valet parking on the pavement.

Waste woes

MKK Road

Residents in MKK Road, Mariyappanapalya, Rajajinagar are facing issues due to blocked footpaths and garbage dumping.

Beware of young snatchers in the hood

Bengaluru records 39 cases of chain snatching in first two months of 2023; police warn people to be careful while stepping out wearing jewellery

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The city has recorded 39 cases of chain snatching in two months. According to the data by Karnataka state police, the city recorded 17 cases of chain snatching in January and 22 cases in February, 2023.

"Most of these cases occur at 5 am when people on bikes snatch chains. These are mostly teenagers between the ages of 15 to 19 who snatch chains and mobiles at knifepoint," said Sohan Reddy.

Areas like Janakiram Layout, Jeevanahalli, and Sathya Nagar are prone to these incidents.

"Chain snatching is happening everywhere in Bengaluru but there are certain areas which are surrounded by slums. Young boys on bikes would snatch chains and escape quickly, making it impossible to know which slum they went to," he explained.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Another resident added that his wife was robbed at knifepoint in CK Nagar three months ago.

"Two people came on bike asking for an address and then robbed my wife at knifepoint. Now women are afraid to go out alone at night or in the morning wearing jewellery. Considering the price of gold, these miscreants are using it to make easy money," he said.

Furthermore, residents claim that they hardly see any police patrolling the area in the early morning and have to rely on themselves for protection.

Meanwhile, police said that they have warned people to be careful when going out wearing expensive jewellery.

"We took to social media and other platforms to warn people about the increasing incidents of mugging and chain snatching. We are patrolling the areas, and if we see anyone suspicious, we question them," informed the police.

MLA's salary: Are there extra payments?

Public information officer breaks salary received by MLAs; social activists point out 'extra' money received by MLAs for telephone bills

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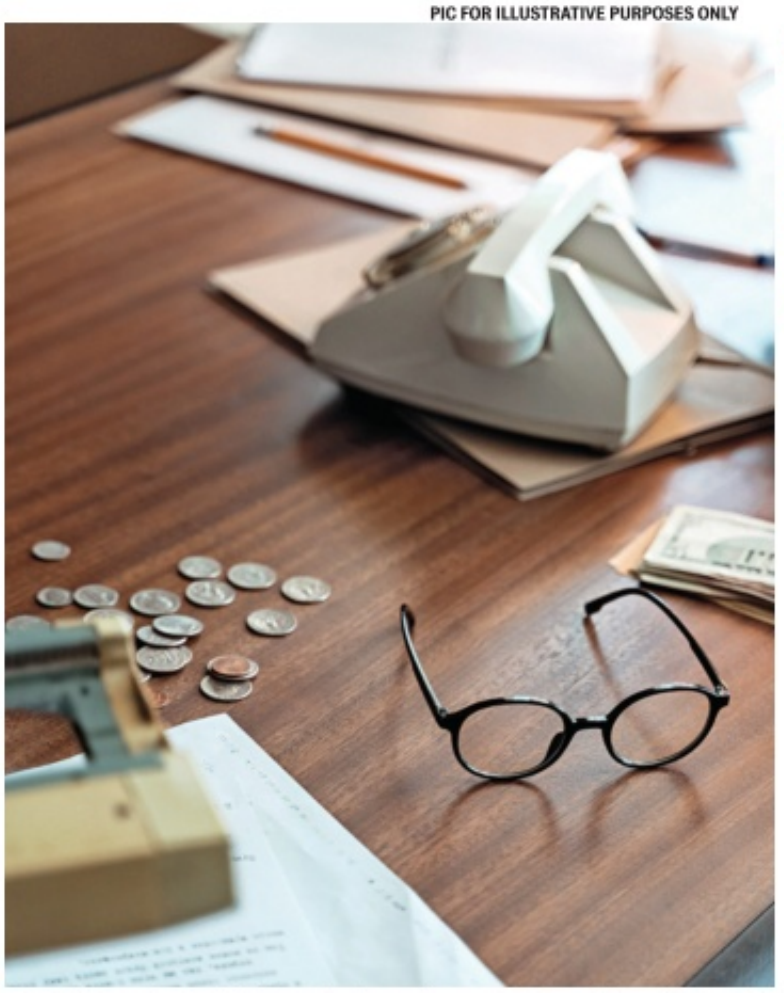
The campaign to elect candidates for 224 Assembly constituencies has gained momentum. All the candidates claim that they are contesting the State Assembly to serve the people of their respective constituencies. None of these candidates, including incumbent MLAs, are telling the voters that they will serve them without availing of salaries and other perks that come to more than Rs 2 lakh per month.

Recently, HM Venkatesh, a social activist, has sought information on the salary and allowances being paid to the MLAs by filing a RTI application. According to the reply from LR Chandrasekhar, undersecretary and public information officer of the Accounts Department, each MLA receives Rs 40,000 as salary, Rs 20,000 towards telephone bills, Rs 20,000 towards salary for personal assistant and room boy, Rs 60,000 towards constituency allowance, and Rs 60,000 towards constituency travelling allowance. The total amount each MLA receives per month is Rs 2,05,000.

The State Assembly passed Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Act in May 2022. It increased the salary for an MLA from Rs 25,000 to Rs 40,000 per month.

"It is nothing but a waste of public money. They are getting thousands of rupees towards telephone bills when teleservice providers are offering unlimited phone calls for Rs 500 per month. Why the government has to pay Rs 20,000 towards telephone bills per month?" asked Venkatesh.

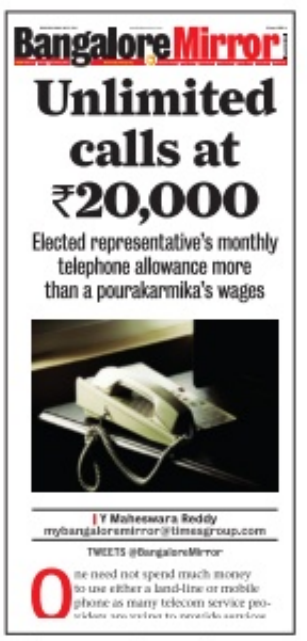
PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY



"MLAs are getting thousands of rupees towards telephone bills when teleservice providers are offering unlimited phone calls for Rs 500 per month

– HM Venkatesh, a social activist

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


BangaloreMirror

Unlimited calls at ₹20,000

Elected representative's monthly telephone allowance more than a pourakarmika's wages

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One need not spend much money to use either a land-line or mobile phone as many telecom service providers are trying to provide services

Each MLA receives Rs 20,000 as telephone allowance; reply to RTI application (inset); BM's report about allowances

Expressing concern over the wasting of public money by paying salaries and huge amounts of allowances, Prakash Babu, a social activist from Mahalakshmi Layout, has condemned the government for increasing allowances to the elected representatives.

"It is not fair to waste public money. Each of the MLAs is receiving Rs 20,000 towards telephone allowance. Where is the need for the government to sanction such a huge amount when teleservices are available at a much lower price (Rs 500 per month)? If the MLA maintains four mobile phones, the total amount will be Rs 2,000 per month," he said.

Terming it as looting public money, Shiva Kumar V, an AAP activist from Domlur said that the elected representatives are using the money for their personal entertainment. "Allowing MLAs to get Rs 20,000 towards telephone bills is wasting taxpayers' money," he added.

NIMHANS to help with health scheme for PwDs

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has come forward to facilitate the enrolment of persons with disabilities (PwDs) under Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme.

This specially designed scheme is for individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities, and is administered by the National Trust under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

According to the professors at NIMHANS, one of the key features of this health insurance scheme is that it reimburses up to Rs 15,000 per year for outpatient department (OPD) treatment, including regular medical check-ups, medicines, pathology, and diagnostic investigations under any qualified medical professional, including those in private practice.

Eligible PwDs can approach registered organisations under the National Trust for enrolment in this health insurance policy. For those seeking enrolment within NIMHANS premises, the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS) facilitates the process on the 4th Wednesday of every month between 10 am and 2 pm.

The initial premium for the policy varies depending on the income level of the policyholder. For PwDs with a below poverty line (BPL) card, the initial premium is Rs 250 and Rs 50 per year thereafter.

For PwDs above the poverty line, the initial premium is Rs 500 and Rs 250 per year thereafter. The scheme is free for PwDs whose legal guardian is not a parent caregiver. For people with disabilities, in order to enroll, documents like the UDID certificate, UDID card, and Aadhaar card of the PwD, a self-attested income certificate or BPL card copy, a copy of the Aadhaar of a parent or guardian of the PwD, and bank account details of the PwD with a copy of the first page are required. The coverage limits under the Niramaya Scheme include up to Rs 15,000 per year for OPD treatment.

A person with disability said "The introduction of this scheme is a crucial step towards making healthcare accessible and affordable for individuals with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities." **BMB**

Bengaluru boys are back in form alright

IPL 2023 is fun to watch, especially for those rooting for Karnataka's batting mainstays as they are creating ripples

IPL 2023 is a fun to watch, especially for those rooting for Karnataka's batting mainstays

KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey, Karnataka's batting mainstays, playing for different teams in IPL 2023, produced some superb batting displays to show that they are back in top form.

Karnataka teammates Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey were on opposite sides in their IPL 2023 clash between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Monday.

Sporting the red and blues of the Delhi Capitals, Manish Pandey was in action with the bat first. Coming in at the fall of a couple of early wickets, Manish Pandey did not have the liberty to have a go and attack right away. He was content to cut and pull for singles and twos to keep the scoreline moving. But once he had settled down, Manish came into his own and smashed a couple of boundaries too.

KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey have produced some superb batting displays for their teams in IPL 2023

Pacer Umran Malik was at the receiving end. First, Manish clipped one off his pads to the deep backward square leg for four and then drove him past cover off the front foot for another boundary as well.

But just as he looked in good nick, he was rather unusually run out. For Mainsh is the quickest on the field while fielding or running between the wickets. Manish made an impressive 34 off 27 balls with two fours. More importantly, Manish showed that he is back in form.

Mayank shines

Mayank Agarwal has been a little subdued this time around. He led Punjab Kings last year but was released and picked up by the Hyderabad team. When in full flow, Mayank is a sight to behold for he is a naturally aggressive batsman. He showed that in plenty while cracking a stroke-filled 49. He played some brilliant shots in the point, cover region and slammed the pacemen Ishant Sharma, Anrich Nortje or Mitchell Marsh. When the spinners Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav came on, Mayank did not step back.

He was lucky to survive even before he had opened his account as Marsh failed to grab a half chance though he dived full stretch, got his hands but it spilled over. That let off perhaps got Mayank into an attacking mood and he made full use of the opportunity to display his innate talent. But just when he looked all set for this first fifty of the season, Mayank played a rather casual shot and virtually lobbed Axar Patel to long on where Aman Khan took an easy catch. Mayank is back to his best and opponents better watch out.

Rahul fastest Indian to 4,000 runs

Lucknow Super Giants skipper and opener Kannaur Lokesh Rahul hammered a fine knock of 74 runs off 56 balls with eight fours and one six in his 101 minutes stay at the wicket and was the sixth batsman out but in the 19th over of the innings against his former team Punjab Kings in Lucknow.

This was Rahul's highest individual score this season. So often leading the batting charts, Rahul is now placed 11th on the table after five appearances and has scored 155 runs at an average of 31.00.

In the process, Rahul became the first Indian player in IPL history to reach the 4,000-run mark in only 114 matches. He has now scored a total of 4,044 runs in 114 outings with four hundreds and 32 50-plus knocks. On a rather difficult wicket with a lot of dew on it, stroke making was not an easy proposition. But Rahul dug himself in and ensured that one end was kept up even as he did not miss an opportunity to score.

Rahul has now scored a total of 4,044 runs in 114 outings with four 100s and 32 50-plus knocks. He has dug in even in difficult circumstances

He took singles very often to rotate the strike and give his teammates the opportunity to get their eye in and also score as much as possible. Rahul, as usual, cut and drove with confidence. He was able to use his wrists to turn the ball around his pads towards fine leg for fours or else used his feet to come out and hoist the bowlers over the heads of the infielders too.

Though he did not take the aerial route often, he did not hesitate to play the lofted shots. Overall, Rahul was confidence-personified and it augured well for him.

— SS Shreekumar

Civic bodies working against each other

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

installing street light poles.

"It shows the lack of urban management. Those in charge of installation of street light poles are engineers. I expect them not to allow digging of pits for installing street light poles. The BBMP authorities have to take measures to protect the trees and take action against those responsible for damaging the roots of those trees," said Vijay Nishanth, known as a tree doctor.

The residents and BBMP engineers are not ready to ensure or allocate the two-feet space on footpaths for trees, said environmentalist Balaji Raghotham lamenting over the lack of safety for trees in Bengaluru, "Many people search for trees to park their vehicles underneath, but do not bother to protect them. It is quite shocking to see pits dug up near the trees damaging the roots of those trees. I want the BBMP forest department officials to take measures to prevent such incidents in future," said Raghotham.

Expressing shock over the digging of pits near trees, Raghavendra B Pachhapur, senior lead, projects, ActionAid Association, said the authorities concerned must behave responsibly and with consideration for the environment. He said the authorities should keep in mind that the climate catastrophe people are experiencing has an unfavourable effect on every life on the planet.

"There seems to be no application of mind by the people involved in digging pits near the trees who are ready to dig pits adjacent to trees, remove their roots, and pour cement to install a pole. We have lost many trees in the name of development, easing traffic with projects like road widening, TenderSURE, Namma Metro, white-topping and so on. Let us stop it here once and for all," he said.

Pachhapur said the BBMP's initiative to install street light poles is also affecting pedestrians between Lalbagh main gate towards west gate; 37 pits are dug up on a 1-km plus stretch. The footpath width is less than 3 ft and installing street light poles reduces the width of the footpath to 2 ft. "How will pedestrians walk on these footpaths?" he asked.

He added the authorities concerned and people responsible for digging pits should not forget that Bengaluru has already lost so much of its green cover that restoring it is almost difficult. "Let's respect the environment by acting responsibly. I want the BBMP chief commissioner to take cognisance of the negative development that denigrates trees and their importance to the environment," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP's deputy range forest officer (South) Chidanand LB said that he was not aware of pits being dug near trees on KR Road, Shankar Mutt Road and other roads in Bengaluru South. "The engineer responsible for installing the street light poles did not consult me. I will look into the matter. I will take suitable action against those responsible for damaging the roots of trees," said the deputy range forest officer.

Access to a drink of clean water

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In a few regions of Malur and Doddaballapur, we noticed that there was fluoride and nitrate in the groundwater. We have been hearing news about the presence of these elements in drinking water. Previously, the families were boiling the water and drinking it: however fluorides cannot be eliminated by boiling. We had a conversation with an NGO, Unnati Foundation; we spoke about the water ATMs project. The NGO connected with the panchayat and we conducted some tests. After identifying the problem areas, we established the units. Each water ATM caters to nearly 200 plus families in the region," Vikas Brahmavar, CEO and Co-Founder, of Boson Whitewater told BM.

Brahmavar added that government-run RO water units are ill-maintained and coverage is low in certain areas. "After setting up units, we train local operators. The nominal amount charged goes towards paying the salary of the operator, In this manner, we are creating employment opportunities and the operator can earn Rs 15,000 per month", he added.

The company noted that they intend to install 25 such units in different parts of Karnataka."We are primarily targeting areas with contaminants such as the Kolar region, Tumkur-Sira region, and the like," he added.

Need of hour: More women in politics

Yelahanka tops with 20 candidates; Bengaluru sees low number of women in the list

POLL VAULT

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

With the assembly elections approaching in the state, Yelahanka has the highest number of contenders for the MLA's seat with 20 candidates. The least number of contenders are from CV Ramann Nagar with only 10 candidates. Overall, 704 candidates had filed their nomination papers, but after withdrawal, only 389 of them are in the fray. Prior to the withdrawal of nominations, Rajajinagar had the highest number of contenders with 33 candidates filing their nomination papers. However, after the withdrawal on Monday, Rajajinagar now has the second-highest number of contenders with 18 candidates.

Women candidates seem to be considerably low in Bengaluru, with only 38 female candidates out of the 389 nominations in the city. Interestingly, there are no women candidates in constituencies such as Shivajinagar, Shantinagar, Chamarjpet, Chikcpet, Hebbal, Padmnabhanagar, BTM Layout, and Bengaluru South. The highest number of women candidates is in Jayanagar and Yeshwantpur with four each.

KAUSHIK JN

Uday Garudachar (BJP) campaigns in the city; 2,613 candidates are fighting for 224 constituencies

Overall, in Karnataka, 2,613 candidates (including 185 women) are fighting for 224 constituencies. The ruling BJP has fielded candidates in all 224 Assembly constituencies while the Congress is contesting in 223. The Congress is not contesting in Melukote where the party has extended its support to Rajya Raitha Sangha candidate Darshan Puttannaiah. The Aam Aadmi Party is contesting in 209 constituencies, JD(S) in 207, BSP in 133, CPM in four, and NPP in two. Additionally, there are around 918 independents in the fray.

An Election Commission official told Bangalore Mirror that there are 16 constituencies with more than 15 candidates in the state. Hence, two ballot units will be used in the following constituencies: Rajajinagar, Hoskote, Yelahanka, Byatrayanpura, Bellary city, Hanur, Gauribidanur, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Hubli-Dharwad Central, Kolar, Gangavati, Srirangapatna, Krishnaraja, Narasimharaja, and Raichur.

Meanwhile, election violations are also seeing a rise. As per the latest report, 2,036 FIRs have been registered, and seizures of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals, and freebies were made. The Excise Department has booked 2,600 heinous cases, 2,244 cases for breach of license conditions, 79 NDPS cases, and 19,122 cases under Section 15(a) of Karnataka Excise act 1965. Additionally, 1,776 vehicles of various types were seized. The FST team seized 105.511 Kg of drugs worth Rs 53,85,000 in Pulikeshi Nagar Constituency of Bangalore City East District. In Shikaripura Constituency of Shivamogga District, the FST team seized cash worth Rs 98,00,000, while the SST team seized cash worth Rs 32,65,577 in Hoskote Constituency of Bangalore Rural District, and Rs 70,00,000 in Kagwad Constituency of Belagavi District. The Voter Helplines received 17,554 calls, and out of these, 16,838 people sought information, 29 gave feedback, 29 made suggestions, and 658 registered complaints. All the calls have been disposed of, and 7,571 complaints have been registered by the citizens on the NGRS portal.

Women candidates seem to be considerably low in B'luru, with only 38 female candidates out of the 389 nominations

POLL WRAP WHAT IS KARNATAKA UP TO?

Defamation case against Siddaramaiah

A defamation case was lodged on Tuesday against Karnataka's Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah over his alleged statement on corruption practised by Lingayat Chief Ministers in the state.

Activist Shankar Sait had lodged a private complaint with the Magistrate court in Bengaluru in this regard. The court had adjourned the matter to April 29, after accepting the petition.

A complaint had also been registered against the Congress leader with the Election Commission in this regard already. The statement that Lingayat CMs indulged in corruption and destroyed the state has stirred a controversy ahead of the May 10 Assembly elections.

The BJP has also made it a big poll issue in the state and used it as a weapon to control the damage caused by the exit of former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi.

The Lingayat Yuva Vedike Legal Cell, which had lodged a complaint with the Election Commission, claimed that Siddaramaiah had insulted the Lingayat community and defamed it.

Siddaramaiah had clarified that he meant to say Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is the present CM, is indulged in corruption and destroyed the state and he didn't mean to comment about others. **IANS**

'Campaign for us or die'

An FIR has been registered against Hebbal BJP candidate Katta Jagdish Naidu. A woman claimed that she is being forced to join the saffron party and campaign for them. A complaint has been filed stating that Naidu threatened to kill her if she did not campaign in favour of the BJP.

In this regard, the woman, Rani Venkataramana, filed a complaint at the Hebbal police station. She said that BJP members are forcing her to go to different houses and campaign for them. An FIR has been registered against Katta Jagdish Naidu, Abhayaraju, and Puneeth, son of former minister Katta Subrahmanya Naidu. **BMB**

ANNEXURE 47
(CHAPTER 5, PARA 5.16.5 Annexure 50)
FORMATS C-1 TO C-8 and CA
Format C-1
Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon' ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of india & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **B.G. Govindappa S/o Galipujappa. Belagur**

Name of political party : **Indian national congress** (Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **Karnataka Legislative Assembly**

Name of Constituency : **No. 101 Hosadurga**

1) **B.G.Govindappa** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases

SI. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of cases (s)	section (s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
01	Additional civil and JMFC Court, Hosadurga	CC 1622/22 29-12-22	Summons	U/S 269 IPC and section 51. D.M. Act 2005

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

SI. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of office (s) & punishment imposed	Maximun Punishment Imposed
NIL			

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CHANGE OF NAME

I RAVI SHANKAR P S/o. SAMBA MURTHY P, Presently residing at Villa No.133, Gitanjali Honey Pool Villas, Seegehalli, Kadugodi, Bangalore -560067 have changed my name to PALAGIRI RAVI SANKAR vide affidavit Dated : 24/04/2023 sworn before notary INDIRA S S, Reg.No.12348, Bangalore

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I Neeta Babulal Shah D/O, Babulal Shah R/o #2750 Anand Mangal 7th A Main Road, Banshankari 2nd Stage , Bangalore -560070 have changed my name to Neeta Shah for all purposes.

I Varshini Mutalikdesai, Residing at 403, Ratnadeepak lakeview Aprtment, Yelachenahalli, Bengaluru 560078, Do hearby declare that I have changed my name from Anusha Tikotekar to Varshini Mutalikdesai after my marriage vide Affidavit dated 10th May 2017, sworn to before A.R Muneer Ahmed Advocate and Notary Bengaluru

I, SUPRIYA SOMNATH SHETTY, Residing at No. 201, Orchid Block, Vaswani Golf Vista, Near E.G.L. Business Park, Bengaluru-560017, have changed my name to SUPRIYA SHETTY, vide affidavit dated: 25.04.2023 before Notary B.S. Padma Prasad, Bengaluru.

I, Anirudh R H.R/o #506, 5th floor, H-block, Brigade gateway, opp orion mall, Dr.Rajkumar road, Bengaluru 560055 have changed my name to Anirudh Hiremath affidavit Dt.25/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Viswanatha Reddy Patil R/o #4123, Sobha Palmcourt Apt, Kogilu Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my minor son's name from Saatwik Reddy Patil to Sohan Reddy Patil for all purposes.

I, Nusrath Saleem W/o Saleem jawad R/o 18/1, 2nd cross, Anjanappa Block, Krishnamma garden, Benson Town post, Banglore-560046 have changed my name to Nusrath jawad for all purposes.

I Ankit Majumdar r/a #Flat No: L-A2124, GM Infinite L Block, Ground Floor Ecity-2, Electronic City,Phase1, Thirupalya Village, Bomasandra, Bangalore 560100 have my name as Ankit Prabodh Mujumdar in educational documents and Ankit Majumdar in other documents both the names belong to me, I would prefer Ankit Majumdar for all future purposes.

I, SHAILAJA BHAT, Residing at No. 212, 10th Cross, 4th Main, BEML Layout, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name to SHAILAJA KAMESHWAR BHAT, vide affidavit dated: 25.04.2023 before Notary B.S. Padma Prasad, Bengaluru.

I V N Kavyashri D/O, Nagaraju R/o #154,2nd Cross Rajyotsava Nagar Kumarswamy Layout Jp Nagar Bengaluru -560078 have changed my name to Kavya V N for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, DADAPEER ALIYAS SURAJ L ALMEL (Aadhaar No.3916 0124 7833) S/o Almel L H have lost my two original sale deed document with few other documents. 1) Doc No. 11652/2000-2001 & 2) Doc No. 11651/2000-2001, both documents are registered in Sub-registrar Office K R Puram, Bengaluru While Travelling from Nagarabhavi to Majestic on 10/01/2023 Case Registered No. 0543518/2023 Finder please Contact or Return to this Address Dadapeer No.220, 2nd Stage, 3rd Block, Nagarabhavi B.D.A Layout, Bangalore-560072. Mob- 99644 27874

LOST: I, RENUKA W/o Rama krishna have lost my original sale deed document. DOC NO: 29064/05/06. E-Katha No: 1400235099 While Travelling from K. R Market to Ullal Upanagar on 07/11/2022 Case Registered No. 0537855/2023 Finder please Contact or Return to this Address Renuka No. 63, 2nd Cross, Ambedkar Nagara, Ullal Upanagar, Bangalore. Mobile: 90068 34368

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HEALTH TIP: Doing at least 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise each week will help sleep patterns and your heart

Pulses are rich in B vitamins, which are key mood-boosting nutrients, as well as being good sources of zinc, magnesium and selenium

Goggle-eyed shopper

Social media scatters your brain, and then you buy stuff you don't need

Social media can be mentally draining. And when mentally drained, you are more likely to be influenced by a high number of likes on posts – even to the point of clicking on ads for products you don't need or want – according to our recent experiments on how social media affects behavior.

As a professor of advertising, I have studied social media behavior for years. In late 2022, my colleague Eric Haley and I conducted three online studies on Americans aged 18-65 to test how people under various mental loads respond to ads differently.

The control group in each study was given no introductory task – we just had them look at an ad. A second group had to memorize a nine-digit number and then look at the ad. The third group scrolled through their Instagram feed for 30 seconds and then looked at the ad. The first study used an ad for a meal prep service, the second was for ice cream and the third was for coffee beans.

The ad photo and caption were the same for everyone in each group, with only the number of likes manipulated. Participants randomly saw an ad with a few hundred likes or tens of thousands of likes. After viewing the ad, each participant rated how willing they would be to buy the product, and how much mental effort it took to think about the information. The group that used Instagram first were the most likely to want to buy the featured product when there were lots of likes or comments, and they also reported using the most mental effort to assess the ad.

In one study we asked people to explain why they wanted to buy a product, and those in the control group gave simple, rational answers for their choice: "I was thinking of the ice cream flavors and how they would taste." Or, "I like the ad. It is simple and clean. It gets straight to the point …"

However, those who had just scrolled social media for 30 seconds often gave answers that made no sense. For example, some gave one-word answers like "food" or "plate." Others explicitly told us it was difficult to process: "It had too many words and options in the picture."

Why it matters

Researchers refer to this mentally exhausted state as "cognitive overload." Using social media puts you in this state because you are constantly evaluating different types of text, photo and video posts from so many different people. In the span of several seconds you can see a text from your spouse, a photo from a coworker, a video from a celebrity and a meme from your brother. All of this scrolling and evaluating leaves us feeling frazzled and scattered.

Imagine asking your roommate if they want to go get pizza. Under normal conditions, the roommate might consider several factors such as cost, hunger, timing or their schedule. Now imagine asking your roommate the same question while they are on the phone with a sick relative after having stepped in dog poop and they also just got a text from their ex while remembering they were late for work. They no longer have the mental energy or resources to logically consider whether pizza for dinner is a good idea. They might just yell "Yeah, sure!" while running inside to clean their shoes.

The one exception to this is when a person has a lot of experience, history or knowledge with the particular product or idea. When this is the case, they are able to think about whether they will actually benefit from buying the advertised item. We confirmed this in the experiment with the ad for coffee beans. In general, coffee lovers will carefully consider many factors – type of bean, roast level, country of origin and more. So even when these people were in a mental fog, they were not persuaded by ads with high metrics.

By understanding how they might be influenced by social media in unconscious ways, consumers can be more thoughtful and deliberate in regulating their use – and hopefully not buy yet another water bottle they don't need.

What still isn't known

We don't yet know which social media platforms are the most draining.

Media-rich environments like TikTok, Instagram Reels and YouTube are presumably the most mentally taxing because they have text, photos, videos, animations and sound – often all at once and overlapping. These platforms are also where advertisers spend a lot of money, as they offer a high return on investment for brands.

(Matthew Pittman (University of Tennessee) for The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Breathing toxic air may raise cognitive problems in babies: Study

Poor air quality in India could be causing cognitive deficits in babies and toddlers, according to new research.

Researchers from the University of East Anglia in the UK worked with the Community Empowerment Lab in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to see how in-home air quality affects infants' cognition.

They worked with families from a range of socio-economic backgrounds in Shivgarh, a rural community in Uttar Pradesh -- one of the states in India that has been most strongly impacted by poor air quality.

In the study, the team assessed the visual working memory and visual processing speed of 215 infants using a specially-designed cognition task from October 2017 to June 2019.

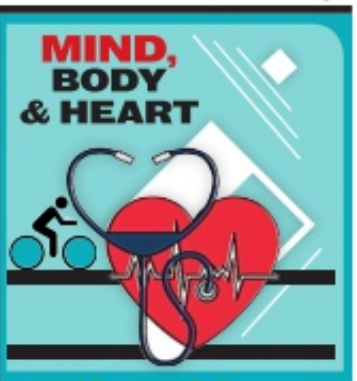
"The research for the first time shows that there is an association between poor air quality and impaired visual cognition in the first two years of life, when brain growth is at its peak," said lead researcher Prof John Spencer, from UEA's School of Psychology.

"Such impacts could carry forward across years, negatively impacting long-term development," he added, in the paper published in the journal eLife.

Spencer said that previous studies have linked poor air quality with cognitive deficits in children, as well as to emotional and behavioural problems.

But "until now, studies had failed to show a link between poor air quality and cognitive problems in babies, when brain growth is at its peak and the brain may be particularly sensitive to toxins. Our study is the first to show this association", Spencer said.

—IANS



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My mum passed away 25 years ago after a long battle with cancer. I was 24 and my younger sister was eight.
When it became apparent her illness was terminal, Mum asked if I'd take on guardianship of my sister. My partner (now husband) and I had only recently started a relationship. The two of us became a three.
My sister had a much better upbringing than I did, as our mum was an alcoholic.
My sister met her boyfriend at school and, since then, they've preferred to spend time with his parents.
She had a baby in October and hosted a baby shower, but there was no acknowledgement of the part I'd played in her upbringing.
The grandparent was acknowledged, though. She invites them for all personal events. I get a hard time if I even post a photo of the baby online. I pulled her up for it and now she's blocked me. All I want to know is what did I do wrong?

COLEEN SAYS

Although you've done an amazing job and given her a good life, you'll always be her big sister.
Your sister lost her mum at a young age and though you were there for her you'll never replace her mum.
She will have gone through difficult emotions over the years and maybe hasn't dealt with them properly.
It sounds like your sister's in-laws have become surrogate parents.
It sounds like your sister is taking you for granted, but approach this differently.
Don't be angry and tell her she's ungrateful.
Acknowledge how tough it's been for her and remind her you're her family, you love her and you want to be a part of her life. Open up a conversation and listen to what she has to say.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

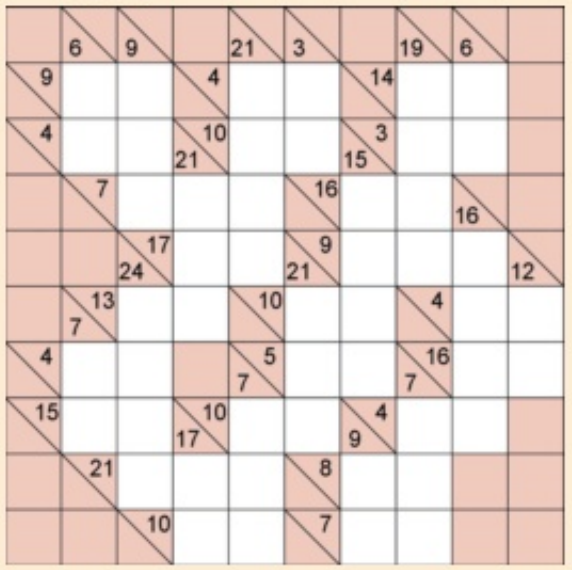
John has two ordinary analog clocks. One loses two minutes every day and the other gains two minutes every day. John set both clocks to the correct time at 10:00 a.m. On March 03, 2019. On what date did both clocks show the same time again?

Kakuro

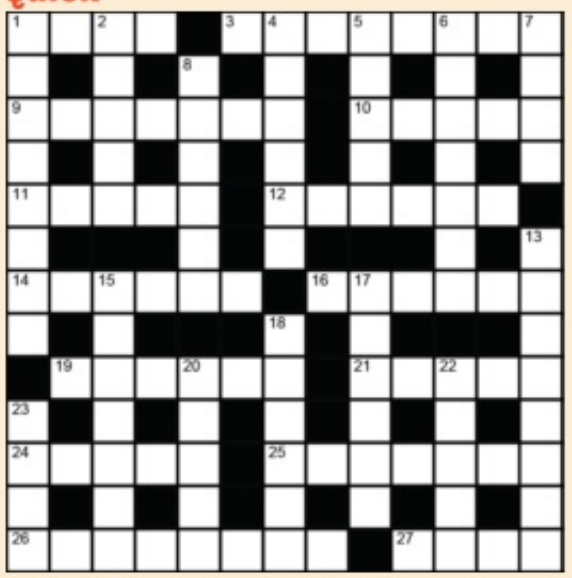
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Dye vat – "rike" anagram? (4)
3 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
9 Upper part of a coal mine (7)
10 Key adjuster (5)
11 Tempted (5)
12 Kind of pumpkin? (6)
14 Free from liability (6)
16 Ex-Aussie paceman Lillee (6)
19 Ebb or retreat (6)
21 Indian Zoroastrian (5)
24 Collect (5)
25 An African spear (7)
26 Stole (8)
27 How a second-hand car may be described (4)

DOWN

1 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
2 Go in (5)
4 An excessive accumulation of serous fluid (6)
5 External (5)
6 Abraham ____ : American President? (7)
7 Taprooms (4)
8 Delayed (4,2)
13 Hardened or became bonelike (8)
15 Look at (7)
17 Bring into the open (6)
18 Ambassador of the Pope (6)
20 Follow (5)
22 Fits of anger (5)
23 A sloping walkway (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS W
AO HUO HII WJ SZ ZDHUZ, HCN AO NOZOUYO DW DAGCVIO.

Linemaro

You are exactly what I have been looking for

Mindchow

Liberation is never of the person, it is always from the person

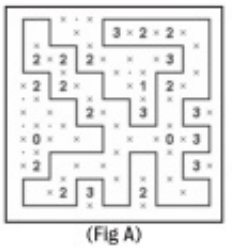
Joke of the day

Why did Tigger stick his head in the toilet? He was looking for Pooh

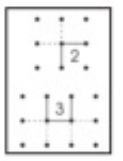
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



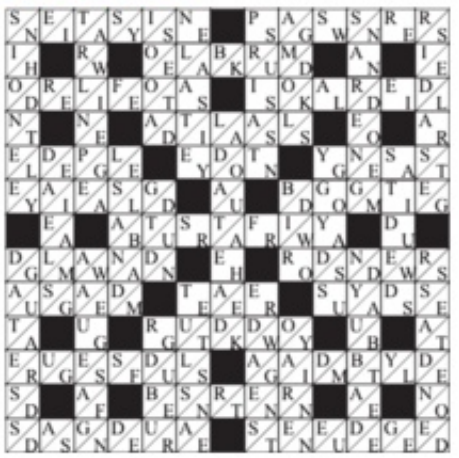
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

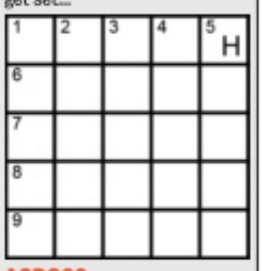
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

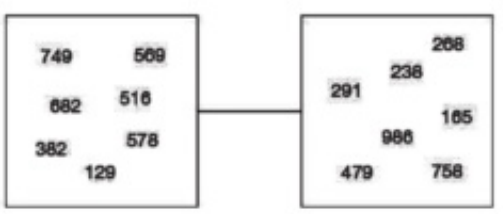
1 Touch; 6 An ape; 7 Her me; 8 Are to; 9 Bahts

DOWN

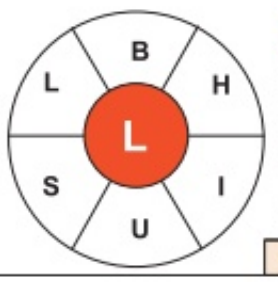
1 Broca; 2 Or ape; 3 Haunt; 4 The ET; 5 Has me

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd number out in each square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

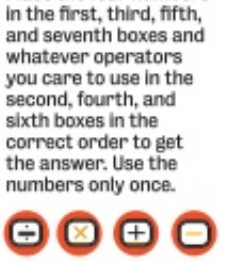
SudokuChallenge

3				8				
5					9			
	9	6	3			8		5
1	2			7				
6	8		1		5		4	3
				2			7	1
2		5			8	7	9	
			2					6
				5				8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

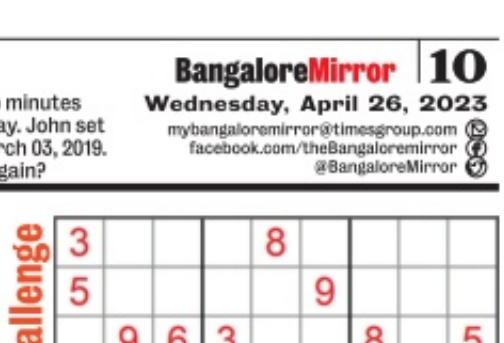


Easy = 28
4 7 8 9

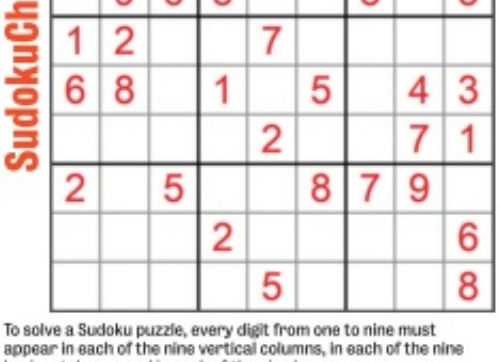
Medium = 13
3 3 6 7

Hard = 17
3 4 8 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



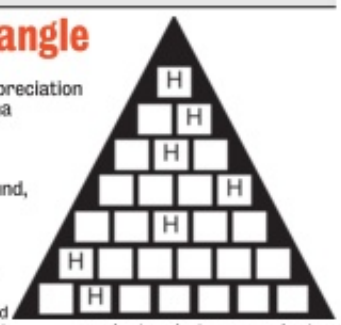
Differences: 1. Cabinet handle is missing. 2. Front of cereal box is different. 3. Upper cabinets are lower. 4. Tongue is moved. 5. Freezer handle is not showing. 6. Cook top burner is smaller.

Riddler

What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

Alpha triangle

1 8th letter
2 Expression of appreciation
3 All the tea in China
4 Individually
5 Had pain
6 Cut away
7 Drew on the ground, in a way



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS EAT NOTHING BUT LETTUCE, CARROTS AND ONE OF THESE PILLS DAILY
WHAT ARE THESE PILLS, MEDICINE MAN ...VITAMINS?
2-6
NO...A LITTLE SOMETHING TO SLOW DOWN THE NOSE TWITCHING

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

OOH, THIS IS A COOL JOURNAL.
ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GET LEE TO LIKE ME! SHE'LL BE LIKE, "KAT, YOU'RE SO COOL AND NICE." AND I'LL BE LIKE, "I KNOW."
IT'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT!
UH, NO THANKS.
I'M CERTAIN SHE HATES ME.

Crankshaft

PHYLLIS THE FORECASTER HERE AT THE CENTERVILLE ICE CARVING FESTIVAL, WHERE ALL SORTS OF ICE SCULPTURES ARE ON DISPLAY!
ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT WANT TO HURRY BEFORE THEY DISAPPEAR ENTIRELY!
2-15
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have good bonding with the boss, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work also. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now, and job seekers may find a new job.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, kids' education may keep you busy. You may plan for their higher studies also. Couples may hear good news in terms of having a child. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Those related to education, consulting, and banking will do better.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Elders' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work, and your network may increase. With the help of the network, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will also improve.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy with your family and you may feel happy. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may buy some worthwhile things, which may increase your social status.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, some dissatisfaction may come into your mind, and you may feel lazy and dull. It affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers may get disappointed in terms of interviews.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your elder's blessing may help you, and you may try to improve your patience. Your focus may come back, which may help you achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life, and there may be some balance between expenditures and savings. It may boost your savings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your internal power may make you happy, and you may get short gains in terms of investments. You may build a good relationship with your boss, and you may see some promotions. Your prestige in society may be increased, and you may also expect some work-related travels.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You may get a good position after your hard work, and your working efficiency may be improved, which may boost your confidence. You may also meet some influential person who may give you good direction to improve your life. Parents' health is also under control now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be happy, and things may be somehow better. You may plan to visit some spiritual place, which may give you inner strength. You may also donate some amount to a charity. You may expect overseas travel in terms of education or work, and singles may get their suitable match.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which can affect your work and cause delays in your current projects. It is advisable to separate your professional life from your personal life, as this may affect harmony at home. It is also recommended to avoid adventure tours or rushing while driving. Lovebirds may experience a breakup, and job seekers may be disappointed.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you, and things may be under control. You may plan to start a new business in partnerships, and there is a possibility of long-distance travel. You will build faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

KIDZONE

Karthik S, 11 Years, SES English School

MN Nnikhita, 12 years, Jade valley School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
After 180 days 1 clock will gain 6 hours and the other clock will lose 6 hours. On Sept. 1st 2019 at 10am both clocks will show 4 o'clock.

BULL'S EYE
bill, bluish, blush, bull, BULLISH, hill, hush, shill, sill

STRIKE OUT

S	I	T	S	I	N	P	A	S	S	E
I	W	O	A	K	U	M	A	N	E	D
D	R	I	F	T	S	S	O	A	R	E
N	N	A	T	L	A	S	O	A	S	
E	D	G	E	Y	O	N	G	N	A	T
Y	I	E	L	D	A	B	O	G	I	E
A	A	U	S	T	R	I	A	N	D	
G	L	A	N	D	H	O	D	D	E	R
U	S	E	D	T	E	E	S	A	D	E
A	G	R	U	D	D	Y	B	I	T	
R	U	L	E	F	U	L	G	A	M	B	L	E
N	E	S	T	E	R	E	N			
S	A	N	D	R	A	S	N	U	D	G	E

FAST FIVE

C	O	U	T	H
O	R	A	T	E
R	E	H	E	M
A	P	N	E	A
B	A	T	H	S

QUOTE UNCODE
We are all of us stars, and we deserve to twinkle.

QUICK

P	I	L	F	E	R	E	D	■	U	S	E	D
M	■	L	■	U	■	T	■	E	■	E
A	M	A	S	■	A	S	S	E	G	A	I
R	■	B	■	N	■	G	■	O	■	A	F
R	E	C	E	D	E	■	P	A	R	S	I
V	■	Y	■	L	■	X	■	■	■	S
E	X	E	M	P	T	■	D	E	N	N	I	S
O	■	U	■	A	■	L	■	L	■	O
L	U	R	E	D	■	M	A	R	R	O	W	S
I	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	E	■	C	■	S
P	I	T	H	E	A	D	■	T	U	N	E	R
A	■	N	■	H	■	E	■	U	■	I	■	A
K	I	E	R	■	P	O	L	O	C	L	U	B

RIDDLER A palm

MENSA PUZZLE
569 and 986: all the others are in anagram pairs of numbers. 749/479, 682/268, 516/165, 382/238, 578/758 and 129/291

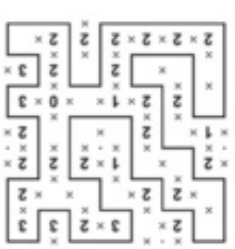
SUDOKU

4	6	1	9	5	7	3	2	8
8	7	9	2	3	4	1	5	6
2	3	5	6	1	8	7	9	4
9	5	4	8	2	3	6	7	1
6	8	7	1	9	5	2	4	3
1	2	3	4	7	6	5	8	9
7	9	6	3	4	2	8	1	5
5	1	8	7	6	9	4	3	2
3	4	2	5	8	1	9	6	7

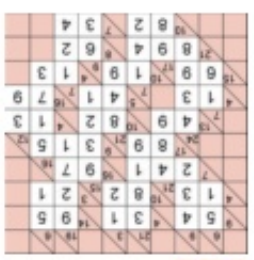
ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ah, Cha, Each, Ached, Hacked, Chalked.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 4 + 8 + 9 = 28
Medium
3 + 7 + 6 − 3 = 13
Hard
3 × 4 − 3 + 8 = 17

LOOP



KAKURO



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INTERVIEW

FEMINA MISS INDIA NANDINI GUPTA

In conversation with Femina Miss India Nandini Gupta on her fantastic journey so far

If tinseltown calls, she'll give it a shot

It is a dream-come-true for Nandini Gupta. A pretty girl from Kota in Rajasthan is now living her dream as Femina Miss India 2023. Softspoken and polite, Nandini says she will make sure her head is on her shoulders even as the sky is the limit. Read on...

From Kota to the global stage, your life must have changed completely during the last few days.
I am still in a daze. Oh yes, it is definitely going to be a completely different life for me. I am looking forward to what lies ahead for me.

When your name was announced as Miss Femina India, how did it feel?
To be honest, it was a moment that is yet to register. Before the announcement there was so much uncertainty in my mind and so much nervousness...Even if there were other winners, I'd have been happy for them. But the whole uncertainty was very difficult. Even after my name was announced, I couldn't believe it. As I returned home after winning, it still didn't register that I had won the crown.

Were you overwhelmed?
Yes! I just couldn't believe it. It took time for me to realize what I had achieved.

What are your plans for the future? Do you see this crown as a responsibility towards family, country and yourself?
Yes, most definitely. This prestigious crown comes with a big responsibility. I see it as an opportunity for growth, not only for myself but also as a representative of India. I see this as a chance for me to make my country proud.

Have you become self-conscious as you are being watched all the time?
No, I don't feel that. I am the same 19-year old. It's just that I have a different lifestyle now. I have a different time to wake up and a different time to sleep. Otherwise, nothing has changed. The 19-year old within me is very much alive.

Do you see yourself heading for Bollywood sometime soon?
If I get opportunities (to act in Bollywood films) then why not? I will take every opportunity that this crown has given me. Why would I say no to anything that I haven't even explored?

What are your plans for the future? Do you see this crown as a responsibility towards family, country and yourself?
Yes, most definitely. This prestigious crown comes with a big responsibility. I see it as an opportunity for growth, not only for myself but also as a representative of India. I see this as a chance for me to make my country proud.

— Subhash K Jha, ETimes

Saiyami to recite Gulzar's poetry

Actress Saiyami Kher, who worked with legendary writer-director-lyricist Gulzar in her Bollywood debut 'Mirzya', has reunited with the maestro in her upcoming movie '8 A.M. Metro'.

The movie, helmed by the director Raj R, also stars Gulshan Devaiah, and features poetry by Gulzar. The actress will be seen reciting Gulzar's poems in the film.

Sharing her experience of working again with the veteran artiste, the actress said, "'8 A.M. Metro' is a beautiful story and is decorated with poetry written by Gulzar Saab. His poems bring so much life into the film. I feel lucky to have gotten a chance to mouth those poems. He was gracious enough to release the poster of the movie. I have been fortunate to start my acting career with him in Mirzya and Gulzar Saab's words and existence has left a huge impact on my life. His body of work, humility, and knowledge is so vast, all I can do is sit back and wonder how one man can do so much".

Saiyami plays the role of a 29-year-old homemaker, Iravati, who leads a mundane life. But her life goes through a huge change when she has to rush to Hyderabad. That's when she meets Pritam, played by Gulshan Devaiah.

She further mentioned, "I am a HUGE fan of Gulzaar Saab. He unknowingly has been a big influence in my life. I feel eternally grateful that I am working with him now for the second time, it's pure joy (sic)".

—IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Going abroad

The Sri Lankan film industry is in for a treat as four award-winning movies of Dr. Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar are set to be featured at the first-ever Kannada Film Festival in Sri Lanka. The festival is being organiSed by the Asian Media Cultural Association, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Film Corporation and the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, promises to be a grand event.

The films that will be showcased at the festival are: America - America, Maathad Maathaadu Mallige, Ishtakaamya, and Kotreshi Kanasu. "I am very happy to screen my movies at the first-ever Kannada Film Festival to be held in Sri Lanka. I will also take classes for students from Sri Lankan universities," said Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar.

The festival will be held in Colombo from April 27 to May 3 at the Film Corporation Theatre. Dr. Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar will be accompanied by a delegation from his films.

Dream realised

Meet Mahesh Babu, a computer science graduate, who debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with the film Buddha. Mahesh Babu's parents wanted him to take over the construction business but he wanted to realise his long-cherished dream of becoming a hero.

"Watching movies is my passion. I am a hard core fan of Sri Murali. Initially, my parents objected to me acting in movies but later they allowed me to pursue a career in acting. My parents told me that I can take over the construction business whenever I want," said Mahesh Babu.

The shooting of the movie was held in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Madikeri, Kanakapura, Channapatna and Varanasi. "The story is about a hero injured seriously in a road accident. He loses memory and goes missing. The climax is whether the hero returns home. The difference between this movie and others is that usually the hero goes looking for missing people but here, the hero himself goes missing," he said. Buddha is the first movie as a director for Pradeep Kumar BS. "The movie's shooting and dubbing is completed and post-production work is in progress," he said.